

Fish in the Naruto Strait: Yellowtail

Yellowtail, Japanese amberjack (*Seliora quinqueradiata*)

The yellowtail or Japanese amberjack (not to be confused with yellowfin tuna) is native to the Pacific Ocean, from Japan to Hawaii. In Japan this fish is given different names according to age and size; there are also regional variations. Here in Tokushima Prefecture, yellowtail with a total length of under 10 centimeters are called *mojako*, while those weighing in at around 500 grams are known as *tsubasu*; from around 1 kilogram they are called *hamachi*; while those weighing over 6 kilograms are called *buri* (the latter two names may be familiar from sushi and sashimi restaurants). From summer through fall, *tsubasu* and *hamachi* migrate to the Naruto Strait, where they are caught by fishermen using rod and line. By the time they are caught, many will have grown to *buri* size and weight. In the Harima-Nada part of the Seto Inland Sea (north of Naruto, west of Awaji Island) cultivation of yellowtail, including *sudachi-buri*, is flourishing. *Sudachi-buri* are raised on feed containing *sudachi*, a small citrus fruit endemic to this region.